(a) The Government have released Rs. 4545 crore foreign exchange budget for 1991-92 for the import of fertilisers, fertiliser raw materials and intermediates. Foreign exchange budget for the next year has not been allocated.

(b) Some State Governments have informed that farmers have expressed concern about the dual pricing of fertilisers resulting from the subsidy on fertilisers to small and marginal farmers.

(c) At present while the notified price of fertilisers is the same for all farmers, a subsidy is given to small & marginal farmers to cover the price difference between the prices notified on 14th August, 1991 and those prior to 25th July, 1991. At present there is no specific proposal under consideration to discontinue this subsidy scheme.

Drought in Gujarat

3312. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many people from Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat are compelled to migrate with their cattle to South Gujarat on account of severe drought prevailing in these regions; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. So far 36475 cattle and their owners have migrated to South Gujarat due to scarcity of fodder in Kutch District during the current year.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat has opened transit camps for the migration of cattle at a distance of every 20 kms as prescribed in the Gujarat Relief Manual. In the Camps, 3 kg. of fodder and 1 kg. of concentrates per cattle is being given free of cost. Besides, relief measures have been taken to give all facilities as per State Relief Manual.

Sub-standard milk in Delhi

3313. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard and superious milk is being supplied in Delhi by private companies in pouches which almost look like the genuine ones supplied by the Delhi Milk Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(b) Amongst others, Director, Prevention of Food Adultration, Delhi Administration, Delhi, Director, Consumer Affairs, Delhi Administration, Delhi and Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies Delhi have been requested to take suitable action against the concerned parties.

Starvation deaths in the country

3314. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths taken place in the country during the last two years year-wise and State-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for such starvation deaths when the country is self-sufficient in food production; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No report of starvation death has been received from any State Government/Union Territory Administration during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Facilities to farmers

3315. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: